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new book upon plants. It need not be said to those who have read his books that this is not like other books on plants. It is new in matter, in illustrations and in method. We cannot make out whether or not it is to be used as a text-book. It is too full of suggestions for the humdrum of the ordinary class-room use. Perhaps its greatest value will be in affording stimulating suggestions to both teacher and pupil in primary and secondary schools.

The titles of the chapters are not so different from those in the familiar text-books of a generation ago. Thus we have 'Studies of Twigs and Buds,' 'Studies of Leaves and Foliage,' 'Studies of Flowers,' etc., but when we look at the treatment we find a newness and freshness which tell of the master who wrote the suggestive pages. The illustrator (Professor Holdsworth) and the publishers (The Macmillan Company) have done their share to give the book an attractive appearance.

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### ETHNOLOGIC MATERIAL FROM INDIA.

THE distinguished ethnologist Professor Bastian, after celebrating his seventieth birthday with eclat in Berlin two years ago, took a fresh start in his studies by going to India and adjacent regions, where he has been ever since, collecting most industriously all sorts of valuable knowledge. Many of his observations he has given out in a plain form in two volumes called 'Lose Blätter aus Indien,' published at Batavia. These are new contributions to the psychological ethnology which he has so earnestly advocated. I may dare to translate (no easy matter) from his preface to show the meaning of these studies: "The whole intellectual wealth of mankind, up to the most transcendental speculations, can be reduced to a minimal quantity of elementary

thoughts, each potentially pregnant with magical powers, unfolding into the most varied national mental products, and satisfying the physical longings in every direction, under the correlation of cosmical harmonies, with which the processes of thought themselves are in necessary union."

In this spirit Professor Bastian takes up the mythology and philosophy of the far East, its ethics, its legends and its religious rites, throwing new light on what is old, and adding much that is novel and striking. To the reader who likes hard reading and deep thinking, the work may be commended as sure to satisfy.

##### ANCIENT VARIETIES OF DOGS.

THE first domesticated mammal seems to have been the dog. In the Swiss Society of Natural History, last year, Professor Studer read a paper on ancient European dogs. The oldest variety was the so-called peat dog. It belongs to the neolithic period. There were four other varieties known in the bronze period, and in that of the lake dwellings. Direct descendants of these are the German hunting hounds, the shepherd dog and the poodle.

In America there is little evidence that any dog was trained for hunting. In the far north the Eskimo dog was a beast of draught, the only one known to the Red Race. The dogs of Mexico and Central America seem to have been principally raised for food or ceremonial sacrifices. In Peru there were several varieties under domestication, two of which have been clearly distinguished.

It is noteworthy that although in many American tribes the dog was a sacred or mythical animal in the legends, he was not regarded with affection, but with dislike and aversion, a fact strongly brought out by von Tschudi.

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